

Cumberland Fire District Committee Meeting

Minutes November 25, 2014 7:45pm Cumberland Town Hall Council Chambers

The commissioners for the Cumberland Fire District Committee in attendance – Bruce Lemois, Phil Koutsogiane, Frank Matta, Chris Parent, Cindy Ouellette, Ron Champagne, and Jim Scullin.

Meeting called to order at 7:45pm, a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to accept the November 13, 2014 minutes was made by Commissioner Champagne and seconded by Commissioner Matta. The motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Lemois noted that a list of upcoming meetings was sent to each station for posting. The 4th Tuesday of the month is a regular committee meeting and the 2nd Tuesday is a finance meeting.

The By-Laws committee met. The working documents from the Transition Committee were very helpful.

Old Business –

The Administrative staff including tax collectors, treasurers and administrative met at the NCFD school house.

Discussions about merging tax data and timeframes were discussed. April is the latest the information should be merged to allow for testing and cleaning of the database before the next tax bills go out. Discussion of payroll revealed that the individual union contracts make it difficult to transition to one payroll before January 1, 2015. The best option is to keep things as they are today and move to one payroll with the new union contract. The administrative staff plans to meet weekly.

New Business –

Resolution FC-R-2014-01 Establishing the public input policy

Discussion about the timing of public input was held. Commissioner Ouellette suggested removing items 17 and 18. A motion to approve FC-R-2014-01 removing item 17 and 18 was made by Commissioner Champagne and seconded by Commissioner Ouellette. The motion passed 7-0.

Resolution FC-R-2014-02 To create a new budget line item and costing for combined district cost.

Discussion was held concerning the combined districts expenses. The resolution calls for sending these invoices to the CHFD for payment and billing the other three stations for ¼ of the expense. Commissioner Champagne requested discussing this with Mr. Yazbak the CPA for CHFD before any decision is made. Commissioner Koutsogiane asked Mr. Murray CPA and Treasurer for NCFD to comment. Mr. Murray explained how the expense would be tracked and stated the resolution as proposed would be consistent with accounting rules. He also noted that the individual district budgets have already been approved so funding a separate line for the Commissioners expenses wouldn't work.

A motion to approve FC-R-2014-02 was made by Commissioner Koutsogiane, there was no second. Commissioner Koutsogiane rescinded the motion.

A motion to table FC-R-2014-02 until Mr. Yazbak can come to discuss was made by Commissioner Champagne and seconded by Commissioner Scullin. The motion passed 7-0

Future Meetings – A list of meetings was sent to all stations for the Chiefs to post. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays and 1st and 3rd Mondays have been reserved as needed. Dave Raymond questioned meeting changes and notification. The RI Secretary of State open meetings website has a place to add email notification. Commissioner Ouellette stated that social media would be used in addition to the RI SOS website. Twitter - #cumberlandfirecommittee.

The Chairman explained the move to executive session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Parent to close the open meeting and adjourn to executive session, seconded by Commissioner Ouellette. The motion passed 7-0, 8:10.